

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,

549-553 White Street

Dubuque

Dubuque County

Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-W

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**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

549-553 White Street

HABS No. IA-160-W

Site Location: 549-553 White Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 7.25
Cadastral grid : NE1/4 NE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.692020.4707700
Lot dimensions : 51.7' x 100' : .12 acre
Lot description: City Lot 311

Present Owner: Lavonne Eisbach
Present Usage: warehouse
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: 100' x 52'; 1 story
Orientation : east
Architectural Plan type : rectangular, one-story
Description : Foundation: reinforced concrete perimeter walls.
Structure : wood frame with brick masonry bearing walls.
Ext. walls: face brick laid in common bond.
Roof : flat composition roofs with brick parapets and terra cotta coping.
Chimneys : none
Windows : front has two fixed glass, large windows with concrete slip sills and loose lintels; above the lintels are sets of triple banked, large fixed windows; on the rear elevation are two sets of multi-pane metal industrial windows with concrete slip sills.
Openings : single-leaf entrance doors and wood sectional garage doors on front, one each per building; two sectional garage doors on rear.
Details : the street elevation is symmetrically arranged, despite the different construction dates for the two buildings.

Construction Date : 1920; 1953

Architecture Style: 20th Century Functional

Physical History : This duplex commercial building is actually the conglomeration of two matching structures, built over thirty years apart. The earlier of the buildings, the south half (549 White Street) was constructed in 1920 to house the automobile garage of Charles C. Gordon. At this time a 2-1/2-story house stood on the property adjacent north (553 White Street). Gordon remained in the garage until at least 1929. Then, after a brief period of vacancy, the building housed three auto body and paint shops in quick succession before its

acquisition in the late 1940s by the Sieg Dubuque Company Warehouse. In 1953 this latter firm demolished the house and built a bookmatched twin to the existing commercial building, using both halves for warehouse space. Essentially unaltered, the structure has functioned as a warehouse since.

Significance: As a utilitarian structure, built relatively late in the development of this industrial district, this modest building typifies the architecture and construction of the brick-clad commercial/industrial structures found on the city's south side.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1882-1923.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 4-5-19-1.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."

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